

[2 August, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) if so, the details of the plans including the major benefits likely to accrue for various development activities of the country?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):** (a) No, Sir. Only preliminary studies have been undertaken, primarily related to definition of possible scientific objectives, conceptualisation of mission including the spacecraft and feasibility of using Indian launch vehicles to send an unmanned scientific spacecraft to the moon. A task force set up by ISRO is considering the various possibilities, including sending an unmanned spacecraft to orbit the moon using ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV). The cost aspects can be known only after the studies are complete and the vehicle to be used, the spacecraft configuration and the instruments to be carried on the spacecraft are defined.

(b) If undertaken, the Lunar Mission, can provide impetus to science in India, challenge to technology and possibly, a new dimension to the international co-operation. It can also serve as a test bed for future missions that could be undertaken by India to explore outer world in the new millennium. It can maximally use the scientific and technical capabilities that India has acquired so far in terms of launch vehicles, satellites and scientific, technological and application payloads, thus integrating the knowledge for Lunar exploration.

#### **Space science centres**

1363. **SHRI B. J. PANDA:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of space science centres set up in the country so far;

(b) whether Government propose to set up some new space science centres during the year 2001-2002;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and;

(d) the steps taken thereon;

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):** (a) In addition to the three Space Science Centres (*viz.*, physical Research Laboratory, Amhmedabad; National MST Radar Facility, Gadanki; North-Eastern Space Applications Centre, Shillong) established under the Department of Space, some of the institutions under the Department

of Science & Technology and the Department of Atomic Energy also carry out studies relating to space sciences.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

#### **Accounting procedure in MPLADS**

1364. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether even after seven years of the operation of the MPLAD Scheme, Government do not have a suitable accounting procedure, which is a great factor in financial mal-administration of the scheme;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what remedial steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) In accordance with the Guidelines on the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), the Head of the District is required to get the works, as recommended by the MP, implemented by following the established procedure, *i.e.*, he is to be guided by the procedure laid down by the concerned State Government subject to the Guidelines Irregularities arise mainly due to non-compliance of the guidelines.

The Districts are maintaining the accounts of the Scheme as per the established procedure of the concerned State Government, No difficulty has been pointed out by Districts in maintaining the accounts of the Scheme nor has there been any problem in carrying out the field audit of the Scheme. The 'established procedures' vary from State to State. Hence uniform separate accounting procedure for the Scheme will not be in tune with the existing procedure of the State Governments. For these reasons, it has been felt that no separate accounting procedure for the Scheme is necessary.